

# 'Spirit' Gone and Scientist Going

By JOSEPH V. PHILLIPS  
Virginia-Pilot Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — A scientist studying reports of flying objects in a Florida Avenue home wrapped up his investigation Sunday by saying the house is not haunted. But he could not give a reason for unusual incidents that began there 10 days ago.

William G. Roll, project director of the Psychical Research Foundation, Durham, N.C., said the incidents stopped four days ago and that their cause must be sought in living persons. He will leave today for Durham after making recommendations to the family involved.

The parapsychologist Sunday held a press conference in Hotel Governor Dinwiddie before newsmen, microphones and television cameras.

He discussed happenings at the home of Charles Daughtry, 74, Mrs. Annie Daughtry, 78, and their great-grandson, Cleveland Harmon, 12.

## 3 INCIDENTS

He said three incidents occurred while he studied the case—a stone was thrown in the backyard, a china cabinet glass door shattered, and a china ornament on a mantelpiece fell to the floor of the house.

Roll said, "In no instance was

I able to make a definite conclusion regarding the cause of the event.

"In field investigations in general, and in this case in particular, it is difficult to reach any conclusive judgment about the phenomena studied. The only thing that can be said with any assurance is that there is nothing in the house itself to cause the phenomena. The things only happened when the house was occupied.

"In other words the cause must be sought in living persons. However, it is not safe to go beyond this statement. That is to say, it is not possible to state whether the events were produced in normal ways or by a parapsychological process."

Parapsychology deals with events that cannot be accounted for by natural law.

In answer to a question he said, "As far as I know, no one has observed any appearances of deception and fraud."

## COULD RESUME

He noted that such unusual incidents often are short-lived, but there can be no assurance the incidents will not resume.

Roll said the investigation was hampered by widespread public interest in the case which upset the "psychological conditions in the home." He said it was therefore difficult to conduct a satis-

factory scientific investigation.

He said, "Before I go, I shall, of course offer the family certain recommendations that may help them. However, my main purpose in coming here last Tuesday was that of the investigator. I wanted to explore the possibility that psychokinetic energies (mind over matter) were involved and to learn about the conditions that trigger them."

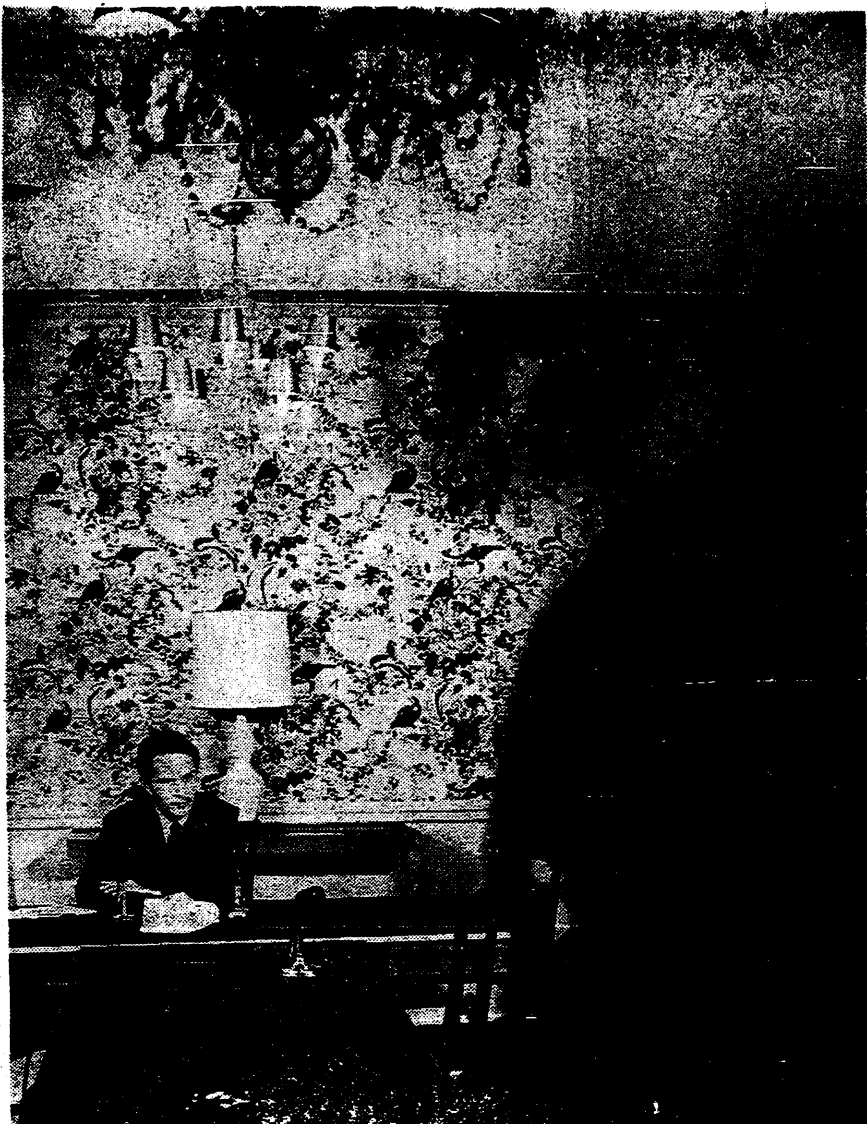
## CROWDS HINDERED

The parapsychologist said he could not exhaust all the research potentials of the case because of crowd interference. The family was more concerned with disturbances from outside

the home than from within, he said.

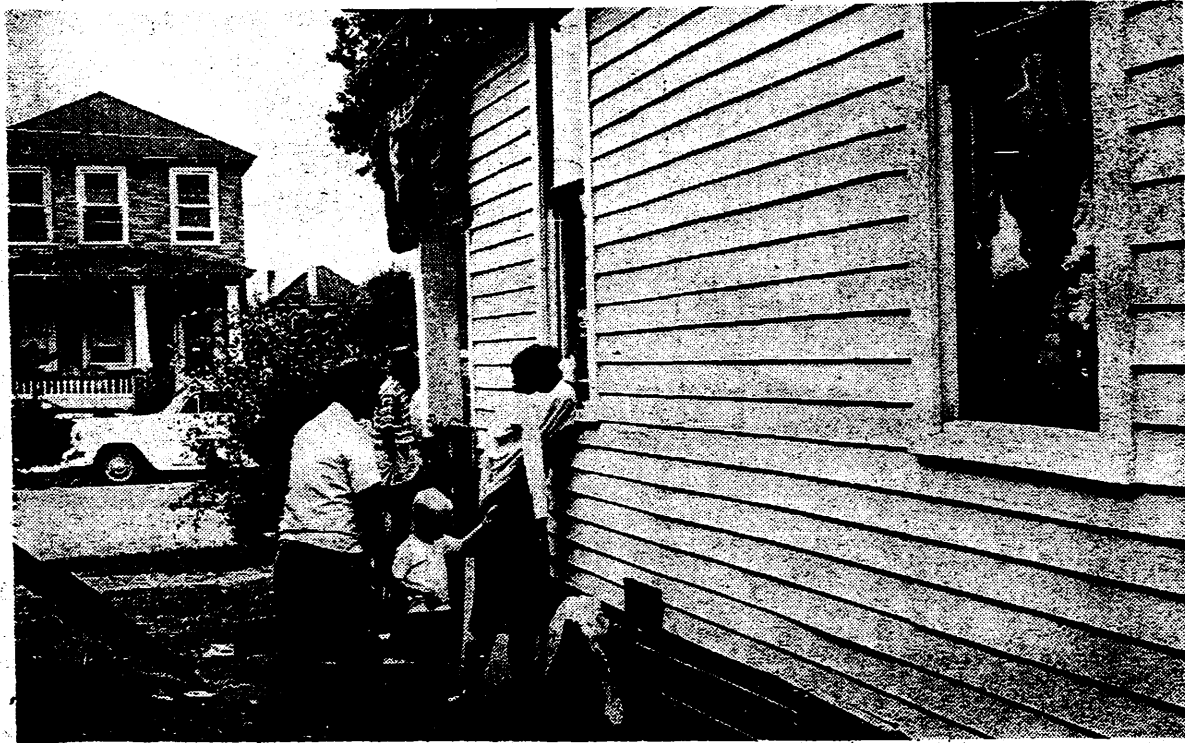
Police said the house was wrecked by human intruders Saturday night. Roll said, "I should like to make a plea to the public and to public authorities to inform parapsychologists directly whenever such outbreaks occur. Only in this way will science be able to reach an understanding of these puzzling phenomena, and only in this way will it be able effectively to aid the unfortunate families involved."

He praised Portsmouth police for their work in keeping many intruders away from the house while the investigation was underway, and thanked newsmen for leaving him alone.



Virginia-Pilot Photos by Brown

Roll at his press conference Sunday. The spectral figure in the foreground is that of a television newsman.



Bystanders look for ghosts through the broken windows of 949 Florida Ave.

## Furniture Flies Again, 2 Charged

PORTSMOUTH — Two people were charged with burglary and destroying private property early Sunday after police said they broke into a "haunted house" looking for treasure and left it a shambles.

Elvis Butch Jr., 34, of 2718 Turnpike Road and Mrs. Ethel Gray, 51, of 2532 1/2 Phillips Ave. were arrested by Portsmouth police. Butch is a city forest department employee. Mrs. Gray is a maid.

Police Capt. G. E. Gardner said the two told him they broke into the house at 949 Florida Ave. in a hunt for money and hidden treasure they believed was there. Police said Butch entered through the back door about 10:30 Saturday and let Mrs. Gray in the front door.

Police said furniture was broken and several household items, including a sewing machine and dishes, were tossed out of the house.

## WENT OUT WINDOW

Butch was slightly injured when he dived through a window on leaving the house when police arrived.

Butch and Mrs. Gray were jailed pending a preliminary hearing in Municipal Court this morning.

## Lime and Salt Recipe

## Holes Heist the Geist

PORTSMOUTH—In case the little fellows bother you, here's a poultice for poltergeists.

It's the exclusive recipe of William Brown of 1036 Middle St., who says he "guarantees there won't be a ghost in there" once you try it. It goes this way:

Take one haunted house. Carefully drill two holes in the floor, one just inside the front door, one just inside the back door. Take some white lime and put a little table salt in it. Sprinkle the mixture around the drilled holes.

Brown didn't say what you should do if you happen to have side doors in your house, but insists he has tried it in haunted houses . . . "and it works."

But if it doesn't, don't blame Brown. And don't set out bowls of milk, either. That's for leprechauns.

## Grappling P.A. Ghost, Police Rout Recalled

VIRGINIA BEACH — Poltergeists? Nothing new to 74-year-old E. W. Burroughs of Virginia Beach, who says he had a nodding acquaintance with one for 56 years.

It began in 1900, near Sigma in Princess Anne County, Burroughs recalled, when pillows were snatched from beneath his head and that of a boyhood friend who was spending the night.

It ended six years ago, when Burroughs and the same friend, Henry T. Stone, received a visit from a naval officer and his wife. The poltergeist picked up the couple and sent them floating across the room.

In between, Burroughs said, he and Stone met their particular poltergeist six times. Once they tried to trap it by closing all doors and windows, allowing the spirit to enter by the stovepipe hole in the roof, then sealing the hole with a thick piece of cardboard. "Everything was quiet," Burroughs related. "Then Stone yelled: 'He's got my hand.' Before he could be reached, he'd been dragged under the bed and the cardboard torn in two."

That was in 1906. Other encounters, said Burroughs, took place in 1908, 1910, 1914, 1916 and 1925. He said the poltergeist threw people around, tossed furniture,

treated policemen with disrespect, made one man think he had ice down his back, and made strong men helpless.

Burroughs said the geist only appeared when he and Stone were together. Since Stone's death in 1958, there have been no incidents. In 1953, Burroughs published a pamphlet relating his and Stone's poltergeisting, and listing the names of more than a dozen witnesses. Their experiences were similar to the recent ones of the Daughtry family in Portsmouth, in which no one was physically harmed, and in which witnesses were present.

One evening in 1910, Burroughs, Stone and some friends were together in the old Neddo Hotel in Norfolk. The poltergeist paid a visit—with noise enough to bring complaints.

"I knew we were making noise," Sam Beskin, one of the occupants, recounted in Burroughs's booklet. "We were being tossed across the room."

The police — a sergeant and two patrolmen — soon arrived only to be tossed across the room, too. Drawing their guns, they began a careful search — and were thrown "as far as the wall would let them go," Beskin said. The policemen ran away.

On Independence Day, 1925, Burroughs and Stone first communicated with the poltergeist by setting up a system of raps to mean yes, no, or I don't know. This done, Burroughs said, seances were held now and then in which the geist made some accurate predictions.

Burroughs doesn't believe a teen-ager must be present for a poltergeist to appear. He says he was 60 when it happened to him. While he prefers fishing to sessions with spiritualists, he admits "I am thoroughly convinced we are surrounded by a living intelligence that guides our daily activity."

The last recorded poltergeist in Virginia threw bottles and bricks around the 100-year-old home of a Baptist minister in Petersburg in 1949.

Before that, there was 1938's "bouncing Bertha," in Powell's Mountain. Here, a nine-year-old girl was bounced all over her bed. Before the geist was done, the sheriff, the Commonwealth's attorney and the Board of Supervisors was involved.



## Tidewater Landfalls

By George H. Tucker

## Heady Spirits Encased in Silk

Style pundits to the contrary, it looks as though men's hats are on the way down the road to join the dodo.

Time was when a man would rather be caught on the street without his pants rather than leave his headgear on the hall rack at home.

Now that is changed and even many of the style-conscious gray-flannel set prance around in all kinds of weather with their locks floating in the breeze.

A hat used to be the unofficial crown of the nominal head of the family. The battle ax in petticoats at home also might wear the breeches, but publicly pater familias was cock of the walk.

And almost anything served him for a hat, so long as it covered his head.

I knew one eccentric old codger in Berkeley who solved the problem for life by bidding in a sea chest full of Navy watch caps right after World War I. From then on, come rain or shine, his peculiar headgear became such a trademark that, once he was laid out for burial, a mourner, missing the familiar toboggan, moaned, "He just don't look natural."

But that was an extreme example.

Before the hatless era, everyday citizens suited their headgear to the seasons.

With the coming of spring, panama hats with narrow black ribbon bands appeared automatically atop any Tidewater middle-aged man of consequence, while the younger and faster set sported hard straw boaters that became taboo to wear after Labor Day.

If they did, a time-honored custom permitted anyone to snatch the hats off and stomp them in the gutter.

Then, after Labor Day, hat fashions changed again, and everything from casual fedoras to the more formal homburgs were broken out to protect their owners' heads from the winter blasts.

But even then there were individualists . . . although they still wore hats.

Even in my time, there were those who preferred the round-top black derbies of their youth, while one old Berkeley gentleman who was still around when I was a boy used his high silk topper to conceal a pint of bottled-in-bond.

PRINCESS ANNE—Two rubber-suited Norfolk police frogmen probed a muddy Princess Anne County swamp Sunday for weapons used in the fatal shooting of a 25-year-old insulation pipe coverer and the stabbing of his 13-year-old girl friend late Friday night.

The search was concentrated Sunday in the swampy waters and water-filled sand pits ringing the area.

The swamp is just beyond a clump of woods and near a beanfield where the assailant sexually abused Sandra Lea Jernigan of Bayside, then stabbed her in the throat.

Miss Jernigan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lea H. Jernigan of 1602 Terrace Ave., Bayside, was in fairly good condition late Sunday in Norfolk General Hospital.

Dead is James H. Futrell of 3543 Westminister Ave., Norfolk.

## NEGRO IN DARK CLOTHES

The assailant was described by Miss Jernigan, a telephone operator, as a Negro man in dark clothes. Police were unable to question her further Sunday because of her condition.

Miss Jernigan and Futrell were standing by his car at the end of a dead-end road off Barretts Corner Drive, located about a half-mile east of Military Highway off Indian River Road, when the assailant accosted them. He asked them what they were doing on private property. Then he pulled a large caliber gun and shot Futrell once in the stomach and again in the head after he fell.

He then took Miss Jernigan further down the sandy land and into the beanfield where he assaulted and stabbed her. She stumbled the half-mile to Indian River Road where a passing motorist found her.

On the off chance the assailant

threw away the weapons after the attack, the police combed the area for clues.

## WATER-FILLED SAND PITS

The search was concentrated Sunday in the swampy waters and water-filled sand pits ringing the area.

Detectives C. R. Greene and D. C. Scott of the Norfolk Police Division's Underwater Recovery Team waded through knee-deep muck in search of the weapons.

They planned to return today and perhaps probe half a dozen 12-foot-deep water-filled sand pits. Scores of curiosity seekers,

many with small children, converged on the scene Sunday, inquiring of police where the attacks took place.

State Police Investigator George L. Mavredes and State Trooper John Gubesch have been working on the case since early Saturday morning.



Virginia-Pilot Photo by Clark

Frogman C. R. Greene (left) and D. C. Scott with State Police Investigator George Mavredes after probing swamp near scene of brutal attack.

## Azalea Saturday

## Coronation Date Moved Back

NORFOLK — "Never on Sunday" is going to apply as strictly to the International Azalea Festival coronation from now on as it did to a young lady portrayed recently in a popular song and a movie.



Jacob

Well, perhaps it is. Festival chairman Clyde H. Jacob Jr. and the festival executive committee decided over the weekend to move the festival coronation day back from noon to Saturday afternoon.

The 10th International Azalea Festival will start next April 15. And it will end with the coronation of its queen in the NATO Amphitheater of the Botanical Garden on the afternoon of Saturday, April 21.

## ALWAYS FAIR WEATHER

Until last Spring, Saturday was the traditional day for the festival coronation, just as "fair" was the traditional coronation weather. Veteran festival hands could point out: "It's never rained during a coronation yet."

In the 1962 festival coronation, held for the first time on a Sunday, Azalea Queen Peggy Goldwater and her court got soaked in a thunder storm that dropped more rain on the gardens than falls in her home state of Arizona in a year.

So the committee has changed back to Saturday and hopes, at the same time, to change its weather luck back to good.

Festival chairman Jacob, whose appointment was announced by Chamber of Commerce president Harry Mansbach, has worked closely with the festival and its organizers in the past.

val committee will be to find a girl who is both available and acceptable as Queen Azalea X.

The selection already may have been made, but no announcement has been made.

The committee also has made a second decision about festival week weather.

If April 21 doesn't have the Saturday good weather luck of past festival weeks, the festival organizers will give Sunday another chance to be sunny on April 22.



Who is Karl Jorgensen? What happened to him? For the answers, see story on page 25.